

REMARKS

Applicant hereby requests further consideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the comments that follow.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0074756 (Policicchio). Claims 1-7 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Policicchio in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,737,938 to Saltzstein. Claim 8 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Rejections under Sections 102 and 103

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowed Claim 8 and intervening Claims 3 and 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 and Claims 2, 4-6 and 9-12, which depend from Claim 1, are now clearly in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has likewise been amended to include the recitations of allowed Claim 8 and intervening Claims 3 and 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 13 is also in condition for allowance.

The foregoing amendments are made without prejudice to Applicant's right to file a continuation or continuation-in-part application directed to the subject matter of the amended claims. The claim amendments are intended for the purpose of expediting issuance of a patent directed to the subject matter of the claims indicated to be allowable, and such amendments are not to be considered a representation, concession or acquiescence as to the patentability of the claims as presented prior to the amendments.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for substantive examination, which action is requested. Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

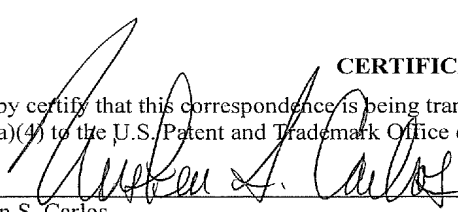


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 24, 2008.


Kirsten S. Carlos